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Shorebirds and pelagics are the new frontier in parts of Central America. On 13 April, for example, many of El Salvador's birders took part in the second national shorebird count, resulting in large counts of rarely reported species such as Pectoral and Stilt Sandpipers. And pelagic trips off El Salvador and Guatemala in March added incrementally to our knowledge of seabirds in the nearshore Pacific Ocean. Well away from the sea, a dead Red-billed Tropicbird was found on the slope of Cordillera Talamanca in Costa Rica. Inland occurrences of pelagic species are always of interest, and suggest that trans-isthmus dispersal may be the mechanism for gene flow in some pelagic species with populations in the Caribbean and eastern Pacific Ocean.

Meanwhile, the march of open-country species into new regions continues unabated, as illustrated this season by the expansion of Grayish Saltator into eastern Costa Rica and western Panama. El Salvador added yet another new species to its growing list with the capture of a Black-banded Woodcreeper at a banding station only a kilometer or so from the Guatemala border.

Abbreviations: C.B.W.S. (Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary, *Stann Creek*, Belize); U.C.R. (Universidad de Costa Rica bird collection).

DUCKS THROUGH STORKS

A group of 750 Blue-winged Teal at the El Progreso oxidation ponds, *Yoro* 4 Mar (DA) were accompanied by a Cinnamon Teal, perhaps the first recorded in Honduras since 1958. Little known and rarely reported in Guatemala, a male and female Ocellated Quail were seen 5 km e. of San Pedro Carchá, *Alta Verapaz* 10 Apr (RC). Providing both the earliest seasonal record and a high count for the species in El Salvador were 152 Audubon's Shearwaters seen on a pelagic out to 50 km off the coast of *Ahuachapán* 3 Mar (JRS, ph. TJ). And in Panama, an Audubon's Shearwater and a Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel seen near *Islas Frailes del Sur*, *Los Santos* 20 May (BA, CAh, SA, DM,

DeM) provided the first provincial records for these two species.

A dead juv. Red-billed Tropicbird was found on the boundary cut between pasture and montane forest on the slope of Cord. Talamanca, *Altamira, Puntarenas* 3 Mar (LS, *U.C.R.). Another juv was found dead in the mts. of Heredia on the Pacific slope of Costa Rica's Central Valley 6 Feb 2004. Five Nazca Boobies and a single Brown Booby seen on the 3 Mar pelagic trip off *Ahuachapán* were the earliest in the year for each species in El Salvador (JRS, TJ). With only three previous records for El Salvador, 3 Blue-footed Boobies seen in *Bahía de La Unión, La Unión* 26 Mar (ph. RIP) were noteworthy. A feeding group of approximately 20 Red-footed Boobies were 5 km e. of *Carrie Bow Caye* on Belize's barrier reef 9 Apr, and 18 were between *Carrie Bow Caye* and *Glovers Reef* on 1 May (PB). Unlike other boobies, this species, which breeds at *Half Moon Caye*, typically forages well offshore and is seldom seen near the reef.

In El Salvador, 2800 Magnificent Frigatebirds, mainly imms. and females, 26 Mar at *Isla Pirigallo, La Unión* (ph. RIP) was made an exceptionally high count. Two separate sightings of Bare-throated Tiger-Heron on the *Río Sapo, Morazán* 8 & 12 Mar were noteworthy for that part of El Salvador (ph. RIP, JSG). In Guatemala, an ad. Reddish Egret at *San Pedro La Laguna, Lake Atitlán, Sololá* 19 Mar (ph. CCA) was one of the few ever recorded inland in Central America. Single Agami Herons were reported at *Summit Ponds, Panamá* 1 & 28 Mar (CB and GAR, respectively) where they are rarely seen. On the Pacific slope of Nicaragua, where it is not often reported, a Jabiru was seen 13 Apr at *Laguna de Tisma, Masaya* (LC, GD, PS).

RAPTORS

A pair of Hook-billed Kites at *Normandia, Usulután* 12 May (CF) provided a good record of this rarely reported species in El Salvador. A subad. male Northern Harrier, rare on the s. Pacific slope of Costa Rica, was seen in a rice-growing area at *Palmar Sur, Puntarenas* 25 Mar (JZ). It was in habitat similar to that in the *Tempisque Basin*, where it occurs regularly in small numbers. Cooper's Hawks were reported passing *La Virgen, Rivas, Nicaragua* between 29 Mar and 21 Apr in northward migration, and another was seen on the late date of 3 May at *Laguna de Apoyo, Masaya* (all PS, AC). On

all but one of the five days with sightings, single birds were seen, with 3 passing on 7 Apr. This species is rare in Nicaragua, where it has been reported previously only in fall migration. Rarely seen in Central America, an ad Solitary Eagle was reported in Costa Rica on two consecutive mornings in mid-Apr, one day soaring over mt. ridges above *San Gerardo Biological Station, Monteverde, Alajuela* with both Black and Ornate Hawk-Eagles, which provided good size comparisons (CG). In Guatemala, another ad. was seen 1 May at 1600 m in the *Los Tarrales Reserve, Suchitepéquez* (LC, KE, MC).

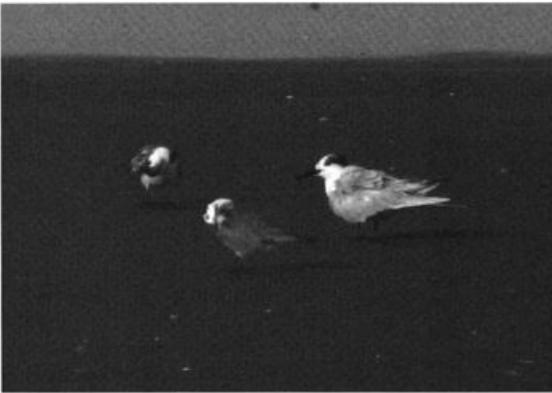
Short-tailed Hawk is typically sedentary, but occasionally small groups of migrating birds are reported. In Nicaragua, a remarkable 85 were seen migrating northward past *La Virgen* 22 Mar, with from one to 6 birds reported



Four Surfbirds were found at *Arcos del Espino, Department of Usulután* in El Salvador on 2 April 2007. Although the species is surely a regular spring transient, there are only a few records of Surfbird from El Salvador. Photograph by *Ricardo Ibarra Portillo*.

there on four subsequent dates through 11 Apr (PS, AC). A pair of Zone-tailed Hawks that appeared to be nesting in mangroves at *Puerto Parada, Usulután* 12 May (RP) would be the first to nest in the coastal lowlands of El Salvador. In Panama, along *Achiote Rd.* in *San Lorenzo N.P., Colón*, a rare juv. Crested Eagle was seen 28 Mar (JCG). And an ad. Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle was seen on the morning of 1 Mar at 1500 m at *Las Alturas* on the Pacific slope of Cordillera Talamanca, *Puntarenas* (JZ, AO, JG). This species is rare in Costa Rica, especially at this elevation and location. Despite a year and a half of fieldwork in the *Río Cangrejal Valley, Pico Bonito N.P., Atlántida*, Ornate Hawk-Eagle was not reported until 9 Apr (DA), when one was seen soaring over primary humid forest. After years of relentless persecution by local residents, few large raptors remain in this valley.

Rarely reported on the Pacific slope of Guatemala, a Barred Forest-Falcon was heard



Five Roseate Terns were found along the Pacific coast of southwestern El Salvador on 14-15 April 2007 (one here 15 April, at Bocana San Juan, Department of Sonsonate). There are only three previous records for the country. Increased spring observations are needed to determine if this species is regular in spring on the Pacific coast. Photograph by Ricardo Ibarra Portillo.

calling in the Los Andes Reserve, *Su-chitepéquez* 4 Apr (KE, CA). Another rarely reported raptor, Slaty-backed Forest-Falcon was seen along Pipeline Rd., *Colón* 18 & 22 Mar (GAR). At least one Collared Forest-Falcon was heard in the arid Valle de Aguán at El Polígono, *Yoro* 1-3 Mar (DA). Although common in wet forests in Honduras, this was in thorn forest where the species is seldom reported. Two Crested Caracaras were reported in Belize this spring. One seen regularly n. of the Spanish Lookout ferry crossing of the Belize R., *Cayo* in Feb, Mar, and early Apr (JT, ph. FT, ET et al.). Specific dates indicated were 10 & 26 Mar and around 4 Apr. Providing the first documented record for s. Belize was an ad. seen aggressively pursuing an Osprey carrying a fish at Aguacaliente Lagoon, *Toledo* 9 Mar (LJ). In Panama, one at Summit Ponds 30 May (KA) was at an unusual location.

Merlin is rare in spring in many parts of Central America away from the Caribbean coast, so one each in Costa Rica on Volcán Irazú, *Cartago*, *La Gamba*, *Puntarenas*, and *Sabalito*, *Puntarenas* near the Panama border 10, 25, & 28 Mar, respectively (all JZ) were noteworthy, as was one in Honduras in the Valle de Aguán 1 Mar (SC), and another in Guatemala at Los Trrales Reserve 17 Mar (KE, JP). The Volcán Irazú bird may have been wintering, as the species is periodically reported in the cen. highlands of Costa Rica in winter. On 8 & 16 May, at least one Peregrine Falcon pair and up to 2 other birds were seen perching and flying together at El Imposible N.P., *Ahuachapán* (RP). The pair was seen performing territorial displays—diving, circling, and calling—but nesting was not observed. Meanwhile, in Nicaragua, a wintering Peregrine Falcon observed at Montibelli Pri-

vate Reserve, *Managua* 10 Feb–13 Mar (PoS, MT) was the first reported from that site.

RAILS THROUGH PHALAROPES

The rarely seen Uniform Crake was reported from Panama, Costa Rica, and Belize this spring. Two were located near the Continental Divide Trail, Fortuna, *Chiriquí* 5 May, and one was heard on the same date at *Chiriquí Grande* (both DM, WA). In Costa Rica, one was seen repeatedly from 10 Feb+ in Santa Teresa de Sabalito, *Puntarenas* (CM, FO), an interior valley adjacent to Panama. Very rare and local in the s. Pacific interior, this was the first reported

from the Coto Brus region. In Belize, one was seen 11 Mar (LJ, BF) near the visitor center in C.B.W.S., where it is known to occur but is seldom reported. A Paint-billed Crake in the *La Gamba* rice-growing area of *Puntarenas* 25 Mar (JZ) was in the same spot where JS collected a dead individual 28 Feb and a live bird was seen 6 Mar (PM).

Two Southern Lapwings by a golf course in *Cariari-Herradura*, *Heredia* 18 Apr (JW) were apparently the first in the Central Valley for this recently established species in Costa Rica. American Golden-Plover is rarely reported in El Salvador, so a spate of records this spring was noteworthy, although perhaps due to increased observer effort. Four were at Río Jiboa, *La Paz* 27 Mar, and 3 were present there 2 Apr (both TJ); 2 were at *Las Bocanitas*, *La Libertad* 11 Apr (RIP, IV); 2 were at *Cerrón Grande Res.*, *Cuscatlán* 13 Apr (RIP, IV); 7 were at *Laguna El Jocotal*, *San Miguel* 13 Apr (RM, MR); and one was at *Bahía de Jiquilisco*, *Usulután* 14 Apr (OK). A Collared Plover was at *Gra Gra Lagoon* N.P. s. of *Dangriga* 5 Mar (JD). This species is seldom reported in Belize away from shrimp farms. An Upland Sandpiper in a maize field beside *Lago de Güija* 15 Apr (NH) provided only the 5th record for El Salvador and the first for *Santa Ana*.

There are only a handful of records of Surf-bird for El Salvador, so a group of 4 photographed at close range at *Arcos del Espino*,

Usulután 2 Apr (ph. RIP) provided a rare opportunity. Records of Red Knot in El Salvador are few, and the first spring record came as recently as Apr 2004. Therefore, a group of 5 at *Bahía de Jiquilisco* 14 Apr (OK, EM, ST, JJ) was worth noting. As the world population continues to decline dramatically, reports of knots may become even rarer. Five Pectoral Sandpipers at *Aguacaliente Lagoon* 3 Mar (LG, BF, et al.) matched the earliest arrival date on record for this species in Belize. In El Salvador, a group of 700 at *Cerrón Grande Res.* 13 Apr was exceptional, as were 260 Stilt Sandpipers there the same day (ph. RIP, IV). Five more Stilt Sandpipers were at *Laguna El Jocotal* 13 Apr (RM, MR). In with a flock of Red-necked Phalaropes 30 km s. of *Punta Blanca* off the sw. tip of the *Osa Pen.* 4 Apr were 4 Red Phalaropes (JZ, ph. JPE et al.). This species is a rare but probably regular migrant in the Pacific off Costa Rica. Additionally, 6 Red Phalaropes were seen on the 3 Mar pelagic trip about 30 km off the coast of *Ahuachapán* (JRS, ph. TJ). There are few previous records for El Salvador.

GULLS THROUGH CUCKOOS

An ad. Swallow-tailed Gull in alternate plumage seen in a spotlight beam for 10 minutes around 7:45 p.m. while circling a boat 71 km wsw. of *Punta Guiones* 9 Apr (RG, PM,



The first Sabine's Gull reported in El Salvador since 1991, this bird was seen at El Majahual beach, *La Libertad* Department 12 April 2007. Photograph by Ricardo Ibarra Portillo.

BY, JZ) provided only the 3rd record for Costa Rica, and at 9° 44' N was the farthest n. yet reported. Providing the first report for El Salvador since 1991, an imm. Sabine's Gull molting into ad. plumage was seen at *El Majahual*, *La Libertad* 12 Apr (ph. RIP, IV). With only two previous records for El Salvador, a single Brown Noddy at Río Jiboa, *La Paz* 13 Mar was a big surprise and the first with documentary evidence (ph. TJ). One or 2 Sooty

Terns on each of three pelagic trips off Golfito, Tambor, and Los Sueños in Mar and Apr (CS, SW, PH, JZ) were the first reported on the Pacific pelagic day-trips run off Costa Rica in recent years. An exceptionally high count of 400 Least Terns at Isla San Sebastián, *Usulután* 14 Apr was double the previous maximum for El Salvador (OK, ph. EM, ST, JJ). Also exceptional were 3000 Black Terns observed during the 3 Mar pelagic trip off *Ahuachapán* (JRS, TJ), along with 1500 counted at Río Jiboa 13 May (TJ).

With only three previous records in El Salvador, 5 Roseate Terns on 14-15 Apr, including 2 at El Zapote, *Ahuachapán* 14 Apr and 3 at Bocana de San Juan, *Sonsonate* 15 Apr (both RIP, AEA), were exceptional. Could this species be an overlooked but regular transient on the Pacific coast, or was this simply an exceptional year? A single Forster's Tern was at Bahía de Jiquilisco 13 Apr (OK, EM, ST, JJ). Another was at Río Jiboa 15 Apr, and 2 were there 29 Apr (TJ). With only eight previous records for El Salvador, 4 birds in one month was unusual, although Apr was the month with most previous records. In the vicinity of Panama City, Elegant Terns were seen on several occasions in Mar: 30 were in Santa Clara 13 Mar, 3 were in Panama City 20 Mar (both GAR), and 10 were in Panama City 31 Mar (LN); also, 3 were at Amador 24 Mar (LN). Elsewhere in Panama, 3 at Venado Beach, *Los Santos* 20 May (BA, CAh, SA, DM, DeM) provided the first provincial record. Two Pomarine Jaegers 5 km off *Santa Rosa* on Guatemala's Pacific coast 28 Apr (PV, ph. VD), while not unexpected, nonetheless provided the first photographic documentation of this species for the country. An exhausted Parasitic Jaeger found on a beach at Cutuco, *La Unión* 27 Apr (ph., *fide* RIP) furnished only the 5th record for El Salvador.

A group of 15 White-crowned Pigeons was in Sittee River Village, *Stann Creek* 9 Apr (PB). Given previous reports of the species in coastal areas of the mainland near Dangriga during the breeding season, a mainland breeding site for this insular species is suggested. A Gray-headed Dove 20 Mar (JV) brought out into the open with a tape-recording on Oxbow Lake Trail in Carara N.P., *Puntarenas* provided a solid report for a confusing species whose distribution is poorly understood outside of its strongholds in the Nicoya Pen., Cord. Guanacaste, and n. Caribbean lowlands of Costa Rica. As with Collared Forest-Falcon (see above), a Ruddy Quail-Dove was mist-netted in arid thorn forest in Valle de Aguán, El Polígono 1 Mar (DA) where the species was not expected. Two Pheasant Cuckoos were reported in Costa Rica this spring: 1 heard 1 Mar at

Las Alturas (JZ, AO, JG) and another heard 3 Apr at Durika (JZ) 35 km n. of Las Alturas, both on the Pacific slope of Cordillera Talamanca. Supported by other reports of this elusive species from the Las Alturas area in the past two years, this may be the most reliable spot in Costa Rica to find the species.

OWLS THROUGH KINGFISHERS

Rarely reported in El Salvador, a Spectacled Owl was at Normandía, *Usulután* 12 May (CF). An Ocellated Poorwill was heard in late Mar (CS) at Crucitas de San Carlos, about 45

served 30 May (JoP, KA).

White-tipped Sicklebills are recently turning up much farther n. on the s. Pacific slope of Costa Rica. After being reported only as far n. as Parrita until recently, 3 were seen this spring for the first time in the Carara area one along Oxbow Lake Trail 17 Mar (GR), another in the same area in late Mar (KEa), and a 3rd at Pura Vida Gardens, up the road from Hotel Villa Lapas, in the mts. behind Carara N.P. 27 Apr (RG). It will be interesting to see if this species persists in the area or if this is only a temporary seasonal expansion. Always



This Spotted Woodcreeper photographed 13 May 2007 is only the fourth recorded in El Salvador and the second recorded at the bird monitoring station in the cloud forest of Montecristo National Park. The species is apparently a very rare resident or occasional visitor to the country's cloud forests. Photograph by Rosehvy Juárez.

km se. of Los Chiles on the Río San Juan, *Alajuela*. The only other Costa Rican records have come from the extreme nw. part of the Caribbean lowlands near Brasilia. This bird, at the Nicaraguan border, was much farther e. in central Costa Rica. As nightjars often go unnoticed, this species may be an established, albeit overlooked, resident in this area. Providing a first locality record, a Dusky Nightjar was heard near the Continental Divide Trail, Fortuna 5 & 7 May (DM, WA). Northern Potoo is seldom reported in Guatemala, at least in part because of its nocturnal habit, so one seen 17 Mar at Patrocinio Reserve, *Quetzaltenango* (ph. KE, CA) was considered noteworthy. More interesting, though, was a pair found nesting in Los Tarrales Reserve 1 Apr (KE, CA). Both members of the pair took turns incubating. Rarely seen from the Canopy Tower, *Panamá* was a Black Swift ob-

of interest in the Belize lowlands, a Brown Violet-ear was seen in mid-Apr on the outskirts of Punta Gorda (PHe). A female Black-crested Coquette in the Patrocinio Reserve in Guatemala 29 Mar (KE) and another female in the Belize Botanical Gardens 6 km s. of San Ignacio, *Cayo* 3 May (JoG) were at localities where the species had not been previously recorded. A male Blue-throated Goldentail made a one-day appearance at The Lodge at Big Falls, *Toledo* 16 May (R&MH, *fide* LJ). There are only two previous records for Belize. Providing a first record for *Bocas del Toro* was a Blue-throated Goldentail at Isla Escudo de Veraguas 12 Apr (AK, TB).

Easily the most abundant hummingbird in Belize, the Rufous-tailed Hummingbird is, however, virtually unrecorded on the Belize cayes. A well-documented bird on Northeast Caye, Glovers Reef Atoll 8 Apr (PB) provided



This female Gray-collared Becard netted in El Salvador's pine-oak forest on 8 April 2007 represents just the third record for Montecristo National Park. Photograph by Vicky Galán.

the first record for the outer cayes. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird in Belmopan 22 Apr (PB) matched the latest spring date on record for Belize. In Honduras, a pair of Mountain Trogons was seen at a nest at the summit of Cerro Uyuca, *Francisco Morazán* 10 Mar (DA). Although not unexpected, few nests of this species have been reported in the Region. Also of interest were an ad. male and 2 juv. Resplendent Quetzals in the same area 10-12 Mar (DA). This record may be of conservation interest because the extent of cloud forest on Uyuca is small, amounting to 250 ha, and the pine forests below are extensively burned most years, potentially jeopardizing its continued presence in the area. An Amazon Kingfisher at Río Guaco, *Morazán* 8 Mar provided a new locality record for El Salvador (RIP, AEA).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

In Panama, an Olivaceous Piculet was at the Gamboa Ammo Dump, *Colón* 16 Apr (JCG), where rare. A bird showing characteristics of both Hoffman's and Golden-fronted Woodpeckers was photographed at Río Torola, *Morazán* 8 Mar (JTG). There is one previous record of a hybrid in El Salvador and one record of an apparently pure Hoffman's. The first Black-banded Woodcreeper ever recorded in El Salvador was trapped at the SalvaNATURA banding station in the cloud forest at Montecristo N.P., *Santa Ana* 6 Apr (ph. VG, RJ, CZ, GF, ARL). Remarkably, a Spotted Woodcreeper, only the 4th documented for the country, was

trapped at the same banding station 13 May (ph. VG, RJ, CZ, IV). Another individual was banded there 22 Mar 2006. A pair of Bare-crowned Antbirds near Aguacaliente Lagoon 14 Mar (LJ) was at a new locality. This species is being reported with increasing frequency in s. Belize where it is likely on the increase as it takes advantage of the proliferation of second-growth forest in the Region.

Two Olive-sided Flycatchers at Red Bank, *Stann Creek* 6 Mar (JD) and one at Ben's Bluff, C.B.W.S. 11 Mar (MH, JH) may have been wintering, as was a singing Willow Flycatcher at The Dump, *Toledo* 18 Mar (LJ). A female Gray-collared Becard was netted in the Montecristo pine-oak forest 8 Apr (ph. VG, RJ, CZ, GF, ARL). There are few reports of this species in El Salvador, and this bird represented only the 3rd record for Montecristo N.P. Three Bare-necked Umbrellabirds were found in a two-day period: one each on 6 May along the Continental Divide Trail, *Chiriquí* and the 3 de Noviembre Trail, Palo Seco Protection Forest, *Bocas del Toro*, and another 7 May at Bijao, Fortuna (DM, WA); also at Palo Seco was a Sharpbill 8 May. These two species are infrequently reported in Panama. The Blue-headed Vireo that wintered in Belmopan was last seen 22 Apr (PB). This wintering individual provided the 3rd documented record for Belize and the 2nd from this site. In Costa Rica, Warbling Vireos were seen along the Oxbow Lake Trail 17 Mar (JV) and at Hotel Villa Lapas in late Mar (DVP), both in Carara N.P. These were the 2nd and 3rd reports this winter for

this casual species. On Glovers Reef Atoll, a Black-whiskered Vireo seen 6 Apr (PB) provided only the 5th record for Belize, the 2nd for Glovers Reef. As would be expected, all have been from the cayes, and all have been seen in spring between 22 Mar and 22 May.

An apparently late migrant Tree Swallow was on Glovers Reef Atoll 7 Apr (PB). This species is among the last to arrive in Central America in fall and the first to leave in spring. Providing a first record for Cauquepec Mt., *Alta Verapaz* was an American Dipper at Sequixpur, 18 km se. of San Pedro Carchá 30 Apr (RC). In Belize, White-throated Robin is normally restricted to elevations above 600 m; however, a group of 8 highly vocal birds 8 May near the C.B.W.S. visitor center was less than 100 m above sea level (JB) and likely signified a small, recently established lowland population. Several birds have been seen consistently at this popular birding destination over the past three years (LJ, JB et al.). The influx of Cedar Waxwings into the Region this winter continued into spring. In Costa Rica, waxwings were widespread, occurring mostly in small flocks ranging from 6 to 29 birds; however, 300 were in the Altamira area on the Pacific slope of Cordillera Talamanca 3 Mar (several observers). In Guatemala, the species was widespread, with numbers ranging from 10 to 50 per report. The latest occurrences were 15 May at Naranjo, *Alajuela* (JZ) and 16 May in the Chelemhá Reserve, *Alta Verapaz* (KE).

WARBLERS

A well-studied Orange-crowned Warbler in Costa Rica at Cariari-Herradura, *Heredia* 16 Apr (JS) was in with a group of Tennessee Warblers. This species is seldom documented in Central America s. of the Guatemala highlands. A Northern Parula, only the 6th for El Salvador, was found in mangroves at Normandía 9 Mar (RIP). Two Northern Parulas were seen in the Los Tarrales Reserve 18 Mar (KE, JP, JDe). The species is rare in Guatemala away from the Caribbean lowlands. Two Magnolia Warblers on the outskirts of Belmopan, Belize 12 May (PB) were late spring migrants. Black-throated Blue Warblers were reported this spring from two localities on the mainland: in Panama, a male was at Chiriquí Grande 6 May (CAh), and in Guatemala, a male was seen 19 Apr (ph. CA) at 2000 m in the Chelemhá Reserve, where it had not previously been recorded. Winter 2006-2007 was not noteworthy for Yellow-rumped Warblers, so a worn female at Las Alturas 8 Apr (JZ, AO, JG) was of interest. Only one other was reported in Costa Rica this winter.

Golden-cheeked Warbler continues to be reported in Costa Rica after first being docu-

mented in autumn 2002. A female at Cedral, Cerros de Escazú on the s. border of the Central Valley 8 Apr (RD, DMac, LSt) was the country's 5th. All have been found in the highlands surrounding the Central Valley, and all but one have been females. Although nw. Nicaragua is within the species' accepted winter range, it is not often reported there, so a male seen at 1350 m in El Jaguar Private Reserve, Jinoteca 4 Mar (LC) is worth reporting. In El Salvador, one at Montecristo N.P. 6 Apr (VG) provided a late record, as this species usually has departed the Region by the end of Mar. Also worth noting is a Yellow-throated Warbler seen at Fortuna 5 May (WA); this species is rare in Panama. A male Prairie Warbler at Pelican Beach, Dangriga 5 Mar (JD) was at the same site where reported last year. This species is not often seen on the mainland. Tying the latest spring date for the species in Belize was a Palm Warbler on Glovers Reef Atoll 3 May (PB).

A female Blackpoll Warbler was mist-netted at La Isla de San Vito, Puntarenas 14 Apr (CM, FO) and recaptured 16 days later. Most Costa Rica records are from Nov-Jan; few are from spring. The only Cerulean Warbler reported in Costa Rica this spring was a male seen 3 Apr at Kéköldi, Limón (DMar, JR). A Hooded Warbler was seen in the Patrocinio Reserve 29 Mar (KE, CA). This species is rare in winter on the Pacific slope of n. Central America. Exceptionally late was a Wilson's Warbler in the Chelehmá Reserve 27 May (KE). A Red-faced Warbler was observed at Montecristo N.P., Santa Ana 6 Apr (VG), providing only the 3rd spring report for El Salvador. The orange-breasted Yellow-breasted Chat found at Sabalito 27 Feb was still present 28 Mar (JZ). Following the report of Gray-throated Chats in two localities within C.B.W.S. 29 & 31 Dec was a report of one from yet another locality within C.B.W.S. 11 Mar (LJ). Whether or not this uncommon but widely distributed species in Belize has recently colonized this heavily birded park or has been overlooked before is unknown.

SWALLOW Tanager THROUGH ORIOLES

Providing the westernmost record for the species was a male Swallow Tanager at Diablo Heights, Panama City 17-18 Mar (C&BT). This species is very rare w. of e. Darién. The peripatetic Grassland Yellow-Finch is as unpredictable as the Slate-colored Seedeater. In some areas (e.g., near Burrell Boom, Belize), it can be reliably found year after year; in other areas, it will appear for only a year, or less, before moving on. Such appears to be the case for The Dump ricefields 20 km nw. of Punta Gorda, where flocks of 65 and 40 were reported in Nov and Dec, respectively. On 8 Mar, only 15 were seen (LJ), and none have been seen in the area since. Apparently, they were only wintering. Only recently reported from the Monteverde area around Santa Elena, a Prevost's Ground-Sparrow was at the San Gerardo Biological Station in mid-Mar (KEa). This bird was farther down on the Caribbean slope than any reported previously.

A Lark Sparrow at La Angostura, Pérez Zeledón, San José 29 Mar (JZ) provided the 6th record for Costa Rica and the 2nd from the San Isidro de El General area. First recorded in Panama in 2003, a Grayish Saltator at Paso Ancho above Volcán in Mar and Apr (JC) was the first reported e. of westernmost Bocas del Toro and provided the first provincial record for Chiriquí. This species continues to expand its range into s. Costa Rica as well, but more advanced on the Caribbean side where it recently reached Panama. On the Pacific slope, it was first reported from about 700 m in the hills behind Uvita on 3 Jan 2006. One seen 2 May at Copal de Agua Buena, 1 km w. of the Wilson Botanical Gardens (CM, FO), was only 5 km from the Panama border and represented a major expansion to the south. Rare in Alta Verapaz, which is on Guatemala's Caribbean slope, was a Spot-breasted Oriole at Cobán 25 Mar (RC).

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